

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6230

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1726

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EI

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND IRISH

FONMIN FITZGERALD

1. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IRELAND TAKES OVER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EC ON JANUARY 1, 1975, WE WISH TO RECOMMEND URGENTLY THAT A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND IRISH FONMIN FITZGERALD SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THAT DATE. WE KNOW THE SECRETARY HAS MADE EFFORTS TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING. WE ARE URGING IT NOW BECAUSE IT WILL UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO IMPROVING DIALOGUE WITH THE NINE FOLLOWING THE PATTERN BEGUN DURING FRENCH INCUMBENCY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EC.

2. WE SEE TWO POSSIBLE WAYS THAT THIS NECESSARY OBJECTIVE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED:

A). I UNDERSTAND THE PARIS EC SUMMIT IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 9 AND 10, AND ASSUME THE SECRETARY WILL TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS ABOUT DECEMBER 10 FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. THERE COULD, THEREFORE, BE A POSSIBILITY FOR A MEETING ON THE CONTINENT IN THIS TIME FRAME ALTHOUGH ONE COULD REASONABLY EXPECT SOME RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF NON-NATO IRELAND TO SEND ITS FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET ON THE FRINGES OF A NATO MINISTERIAL.

B). ANOTHER, AND PERHAPS BETTER OPPORTUNITY, WOULD BE IF THE SECRETARY WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO STOP IN DUBLIN FOR A MEETING

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AND/OR AN INFORMAL MEAL WITH FONMIN FITZGERALD DURING HIS RETURN

FLIGHT TO THE U.S.

3. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, IN IRISH VIEW FITZGERALD IS THE ONLY FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE EC NINE WHO HAS NEVER HAD A BILATERAL TALK WITH THE SECRETARY. FITZGERALD HAS NOT SEEMED PERSONALLY BITTER ABOUT THIS, BUT SOME OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY COLLEAGUES ARE. THIS FEELING CONTRASTS WITH WHAT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THE HIGH-LEVEL COURTSHIP THEY ARE RECEIVING FROM THE FRENCH, WHICH CERTAINLY HAS A GOOD DEAL TO DO WITH IRELAND'S POSITIONS ON EC MATTERS. I DO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE ON OUR PART TO LET ANY POSSIBLE ILL-FEELING PERSIST INTO IRELAND'S EC PRESIDENCY.

4. NOT ONLY DO WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT THE VISIT IS QUITE NECESSARY BUT ALSO THAT IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE AND ENJOYABLE. IT COULD BE EVEN MORE AGREEABLE IF MRS. KISSINGER WERE TO ACCOMPANY THE SECRETARY PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HER MAIDEN NAME WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE IRISH BUT PEOPLE HERE THINK IT IS.
MOORE

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